

**District Three Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2009**

The meeting was called to Order

Present:

Jim Tate Hill, Margie Reisz, Charles Dowling, Marlin Keeling
Crystal Jackson, Abe Lopez

Absent:

Debbie Darden

Others Present:

Vernice Brown, Sophia Pagoulatos of the Planning & Development department,
Kahliah Laney, staff to the committee.

Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2009

The minutes were not available for review.

Review of Projects:

S-09-008 2508 North Marks

Sean Odom on behalf of the applicant TJ Cox, presented the project a shell building with no tenants planned;

ACTION: Approved 5-1-0, with Reisz dissenting

C-09-038: Mariposa Mall, southwest of the Fulton Mall

Jeremy Hoffer made the presentation on behalf of Fresno County EOC and their proposed Farmers' Market

Jackson moved approval, seconded by A. Lopez, with the following conditions:

Consider earlier hours, enforcement of clean-up, having uniform canopies (no tarps), set up time, permanent manager, not just the proposed 1 year manager position (amendment by Reisz)

ACTION: Approved unanimously, 6-0-0

C-09-067 718 F Street

Scott Anderson of Penstar, made the presentation regarding the Chinatown Lofts project. He added one correction that there are 68 units and 3,600 sf of retail space.

The committee had questions related to the City of Fresno policies on the following and asked that the project return at the next meeting.

Open space policies for urban development

Would like general policies about local hiring (as related to funding sources like prop 13 and federal tax credits), and would like to see other letters of support from HCDC and Chinatown Revitalization

Previously Reviewed projects

C-09-28 1620 E. White Avenue

A 32 women; therapeutic community called Victorian Manor, was originally discussed at the March 16, 2009 meeting and held over for a vote only so that members could attend the open house held at the property.

Vernice Brown was asked about WestCare pulling out. She informed the committee that despite WestCare pulling out of its original commitment for direct SASCA (Substance Abuse Servicing Coordinating Agency), funding if the CUP was obtained in short order, the project still had funding and would be working directly with SASCA to fill the beds at the Victorian Manor home. She further informed the committee that since the Victorian Manor Home had not received the CUP that the project was technically "not in existence" and that Westcare could not "fund a project that doesn't exist".

Vernice Brown was asked to elaborate on the relationship between Dunamis, Inc. and WestCare. After sometime she intimated that the Victorian Manor Home would take in overflow from WestCare facilities but that once WestCare sensed some pushback from the City the organization pulled back but did indicate that once a CUP was secured the organization would get back on board with the project.

Members of the committee were concerned with the following:

The city of origin of those women to be housed at the Victorian Manor Home; the concerned was with parolees from other cities being transported to Fresno. Vernice Brown assured the committee that the women would be from Fresno

Other concerns included what would be the impact if not having this facility. Vernice Brown indicated that parolees would be taken to Fresno by bus and "Dropped off downtown at the bus shelter with \$200" .

Committee members were also concerned with the types of offenses that the parolees committed. Vernice Brown assured the committee that these parolees were non-violent offenders with a history of drug abuse

The committee wanted to know what occurs in the event a participant does not complete the program. It was indicated that the State of California would provide funding for the rehabilitation of each participant from anywhere between 6-12 months. Vernice Brown indicated that there is a process in place that allows the Dunamis, Inc. to petition the state for more funding to allow individual participants

C-09-28 1620 E. White Avenue (con't)

to complete the program. She further indicated that sometimes participants did not complete the program, despite certain incentives and that those individuals do return to prison to complete the remainder of their sentence. Concerned was voiced about individuals who have not been fully rehabilitated being released back onto the streets.

The committee asked had the project been properly notice. Vernice Brown indicated that it had and that Dunamis, Inc. held a number of open houses and "walked door to door" informing neighbors about the project. She further indicated that Dunamis, Inc. reached out to the Lowell Neighborhood and had been given the "thumbs up" by that particular community.

The committee wanted to know what goals the program set for the women. Vernice Brown indicated that attaining a GED was one goal among several.

The committee was also concerned about the employee to participant ratio which Vernice Brown clarified was 2:6.

Committee member Reisz indicated that she attended an open house event and was able to see the office where participants would spend much of their time during the day. She indicated that the office was on its way to looking very "professional".

ACTION: Approval of the project (6:0:0) with the conditions that staff be increased according to the 2:6 ratio as the number of participants increases and that Dunamis Inc. consider incorporating gardening into its program.

TA-09-01 and A-09-001 will be reviewed at our next meeting

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.